

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 03422 192137Z

64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 PC-04 DRC-01 /121 W

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R 192115Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1268

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTO DOMINGO 3422

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, DR

SUBJECT: COMMENT ON PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

REF : SD 3421

1. PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS WAS DEVOTED VIRTUALLY ENTIRELY TO THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION AND TO ECONOMIC POLICIES. WHILE EMPHASIZING CONTINUATION OF HIS ECONOMIC POLICIES, THE PRESIDENT MADE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT STATEMENTS IN HIS PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION TO PROHIBIT PRESIDENTIAL REELECTION AND TO CREATE AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY. BY PROPOSING SUCH AMENDMENTS, THE PRESIDENT HAS GONE A LONG WAY TO MEET THE ESSENTIAL DEMANDS OF THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION, WHICH COULD CHANGE THE GENERAL COMPLEXION OF DOMINICAN POLITICS.

2. THE OPPOSITION UNDOUBTEDLY WILL HAVE CONSIDERABLE RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S GOOD INTENTIONS, THOUGH THE INITIAL REACTIONS OF MOST OPPOSITION LEADERS HAVE GENERALLY BEEN POSITIVE. WHILE IT IS EVIDENT THAT A BALAGUER-CONTROLLED CONGRESS WHICH AMENDS THE CONSTITUTION TO PROHIBIT REELECTION CAN LATER REAMEND IT TO PERMIT ANOTHER TERM, MOST OPPOSITION LEADERS PROBABLY WILL FEEL OBLIGED TO ACT AS IF THE AMENDMENT WERE MADE IN GOOD FAITH. BY

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PAGE 02 SANTO 03422 192137Z

PRESENTING TO THE OPPOSITION THE POSSIBILITY OF GAINING THE

PRESIDENCY IN 1978 WHICH WOULD, OF COURSE, REQUIRE AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE MILITARY, THE PRESIDENT HAS OFFERED AN INCENTIVE TO OPPOSITION LEADERS TO DEVELOP MORE COHERENT AND REALISTIC PROGRAMS AND MORE STABLE PARTY STRUCTURES. THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT, ASSUMING IT BECOMES LAW, SHOULD ALSO STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF OPPOSITION MODERATES, WHO HAVE FAVORED ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION VERSUS THE GOLPISTA FACTIONS OF THESE PARTIES WHICH HAVE INSISTED THAT BALAGUER MUST BE OVERTHROWN OR KILLED IF THE OPPOSITION IS TO COME TO POWER. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENT PARTIES WILL BE UNDER GREATER PRESSURE TO INSTITUTIONALIZE THEMSELVES AND DEVELOP A LEADER OR LEADERS OF NATIONAL STATURE TO REPLACE BALAGUER.

3. WHETHER THE OPPOSITION WILL RESPOND TO THIS INCENTIVE IN LIGHT OF THEIR DEEP-SEATED ANTAGONISM, WHICH THEY HAVE HERETOFORE SHOWN TOWARD PRESIDENT BALAGUER, REMAINS TO BE SEEN. IN ANY CASE, PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAS ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATED THAT HE IS THE PRIME MOVER IN THE DOMINICAN POLITICAL SCENE.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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